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**GENEALOGY**  
**OF THE**  
**FRENCH FAMILY**





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**OF THE**  
**FRENCH FAMILY**



1903  
CAMDEN PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
CAMDEN, ME.



### THOMAS FRENCHIE\*

of Wethersfield, Essex Co., England, died 1599. In his will mentions wife, three children and grandson John, son of son Thomas, and gives to poor of Halsted, of West Wrattling, Snetisham, Little Birdsfield and Arkesden.

Children.

THOMAS*	Mary	Elizabeth
m. Anne	John Collins	John Meade

### THOMAS FRENCH

of Halstead, Essex Co., England, died Jan. 27, 1613. Left wife Anne, six sons and several daughters.

Children

THOMAS*	John	Edward	Robert	William	Francis
m. Miss Wood					

### THOMAS FRENCH

of Halstead, Essex Co. Married a daughter of Wood.

Children

WILLIAM*	Francis	Jerry	mya
born Mch 15, 1603	Bapt June 29, 1606	Bapt Nov. 21, 1607	
m. Elizabeth	_____		

### Lieut. WILLIAM FRENCH (or Frenche)

who was was our earliest ancestor in the direct line in America, was born in Halsted, Essex Co., England, March 15, 1603. He married Elizabeth ———, and had four children born in England. He came to America with Rev. Thomas Shepard and his brother Samuel, Roger Harlak-suden, and George and Joseph Cook, in the ship "Defence" in the summer of 1635. He settled first in Cambridge, Mass., and in 1652 was one of the original proprietors and earliest settlers of Billerica, Mass. He was a Lieutenant of the militia and afterwards Captain. Was chosen "to sit in the Deacons seat" 1659. "Comitioner to establish the county rates" the same year; one of the first selectmen, 1660, and served nine years. Committee to examine children and servants in "reading, religion and the catechism," 1651; the first Deputy or Representative of Billerica in the General Court at Boston, 1660, taking his seat in 1663. Evidence of his activity in the cause of Indian instruction is found in a letter written by him to "a godly friend in England," published in London in the famous tract, "Strength Out of Weakness," and afterwards republished in the Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. 3d S. vol. 4, pp. 149, 196, in which he gives a detailed account of the testimony of an Indian convert. His wife died March 31, 1668, and he married 2d, Mary, daughter of Thomas Lathrop of Barnstable and widow of

( ) Numbers in parenthesis indicate the generation.

\* Names marked with the star show the direct line of descent of the family in Camden.

John Stearns of Billerica. He died Nov. 20, 1681, and his widow afterwards married Isaac Mixer of Watertown as his third wife.

By wife Elizabeth he had ten children :

- 1 Francis, b. England, 1624; m. Lydia Bunville of Milford
- 2 Elizabeth, b. " 1629; m. Richard Ellis of Dedham
- 3 Mary, b. " 1633; m. Jonathan Hides
- 4 John, b. " 1635; m. Abigail Coggan
- 5 Sarah, b. Cambridge, March, 1638; m. Jonathan Cheak
- 6 JACOB,\* b. " March 16, 1640; m. Mary Champney
- 7 Hannah, b. " Apr. 12, 1641; d. June 20, 1642
- 8 Hannah, b. " Feb. 16, 1644; m. John Brackett, Sept. 6, 1661,  
had 9 children
- 9 Samuel, b. " Dec. 3, 1645; d. July 15, 1646
- 10 Samuel, b. " abt. 1648; m. Sarah Cummings

By wife Mary he had :

- 11 Mary, b. Billerica, Apr. 3, 1670; m. 1st Robert Sharp; 2d Nathl. Duncklee
- 12 Sarah, b. " Oct. 29, 1671; m. Joseph Crosby of B., May 6, 1691
- 13 Abigail, b. " Apr. 14, 1673; d. Apr. 13, 1674
- 14 Hannah, b. " Jan. 25, 1676; m. John Child of Watertown

Francis French (2) (Lieut. William) (1)

Born in England, 1624, came with his father in the "Defence"; removed to Milford, Conn., about 1650, and four years later was one of the first settlers in Derby, Conn. He married, Apr. 10, 1661, Lydia Bonnelle of Milford and died Feb. 14, 1681. His widow died Apr. 1, 1708.

They had :

- 1 Lydia (3), born in Derby, Aug. 21, 1662; died young
- 2 Elizabeth (3), " June 20, 1664; m. a Mr. Holt
- 3 Anna (3), " Aug. 10, 1666; m. a Mr. Wheeler
- 4 Mary (3), " Sept. 7, 1668; died same year
- 5 Lydia (3), " Sept. 28, 1670; m. Samuel Bowers
- 6 Samuel (3), " July 6, 1672; d. Oct. 26, 1677
- 7 Susan (3), " June 6, 1675
- 8 Francis (3), " Feb. 11, 1677; m. Anna Bowers
- 9 Hannah (3), " Nov. 18, 1679

Corp. John (2) French (Lieut. William)

Born in England, 1635; married 1st, June 21, 1659, Abigail Coggan, daughter of Henry Coggan of Barnstable. She died Apr. 5, 1662, and he married, 2d, July 3, 1663, Hannah Burrage, daughter of John of Charlestown. She died July 7, 1667, and he married, 3d, Jan. 14, 1668, Mary Rogers, daughter of John. She died June 16, 1677, and he married, 4th, Jan. 1678, May, probably daughter of Francis Littlefield of Woburn and widow of John Kittredge of Billerica. She died in 1719, while he died Oct., 1712. He was a Cop. in the militia.

He had by wife Hannah :

- 1 Hannah (3), b. in Billerica, July 20, 1661; m. Aug. 3, 1685, Dr. John Kittredge
- 2 Abigail, (3), " Dec. 6, 1665; m. Benj. Parker

By wife, Mary Rogers :

- 3 Mary (3), born in Billerica, March 4, 1670; m. Nathaniel Shed

By wife, Mary Kittredge, he had :

- 4 John, b. in Billerica, May 15, 1679
- 5 Elizabeth, " July 24, 1681; m. Thomas Abbott
- 6 William, " Nov. 26, 1683; d. Apr. 21, 1685
- 7 Sarah, " Sept. 15, 1685; m. a Mr. Flint of Charlestown
- 8 William, " Aug. 8, 1687; m. Mahitable Patten
- 9 Hannah, " Feb. 18, 1688; m. 1713, Jonathan Richardson

JACOB FRENCH\* (2), (Lieut. William)

Born in Cambridge, March 16, 1640, lived in Billerica, on the East road near his brother John. His house was one of the "garrisons" of 1675, and was probably the same venerable brick-lined house which was occupied by James Fletcher in 1870 and of which a cut is given in Hazen's History of Billerica. He was a sergeant in the militia. He married, 1st, Sept. 20, 1665, Mary Champney, daughter of Richard Champney, ruling elder of the Cambridge church. She died April 1, 1681, and he married, 2d, July 30, 1685, Mary Convers of Woburn. She died June 18, 1686, and he married, 3d, Mary —, who was drowned June 9, 1709. He married, 4th, Ruth —, who died Nov. 6, 1730. He died May 20, 1713.

By wife, Mary Champney, he had :

- 1 Jacob (3), b. in Billerica, Feb. 20, 1667; died about 1700
- 2 WILLIAM (3),\* " July 18, 1668
- 3 Mary (3), " Oct. 6, 1669; died Nov. 8, 1669
- 4 John (3), " Oct. 6, 1670; died Dec. 3, 1670
- 5 Joseph (3), " May 5, 1673; died Sept. 25, 1676
- 6 Jabez (3), " Sept. 16, 1674; died same day
- 7 Mary (3), " March 5, 1677; m. Dec. 13, 1695, Jonathan Baldwin
- 8 Hannah (3), " Oct. 23, 1677; died same day
- 9 Elizabeth (3), " June 8, 1679; m. William Manning
- 10 Sarah (3), " March 7, 1681; m. Thomas Baldwin; died 1761

By wife, Mary Convers, he had :

- 11 Abigail, b. in Billerica, Apr. 20, 1686; died March 29, 1687

Samuel French (2) (Lieut. William 1) -

Born in Cambridge, 1648. He lived with his father in Billerica and thence removed to Dunstable, of which he was one of the pioneers. 1684, his name appears as one of the members of the church in Dunstable, on the occasion of building a new meeting house. He married, Dec. 24, 1682, Sarah, daughter of John Cummings, Sr. The date of his death is not known, nor is that of his wife.

They had :

- 1 Sarah (3) b. in Dunstable, Feb., 1684
- 2 Samuel (3), " Sept. 10, 1685; died Nov. 4, 1727
- 3 Joseph (3), " March 10, 1687
- 4 John (3), " May, 1691
- 5 Ebenezer (3), " Apr. 7, 1693; killed by Indians Sept. 5, 1724
- 6 Richard (3), " Apr. 8, 1695
- 7 Alice (3), " Nov. 20, 1699
- 8 Jonathan (3), " Feb. 11, 1704; died Nov. 17, 1757; was a deacon

1694

Ebenezer (3) was a lieutenant in the militia. He was killed by the Indians near Thornton's Ferry on the Merrimack River, while leading a party in pursuit of a marauding party of French and Mohawk Indians who had captured two men near the settlement the night before.

Francis French (3), (Francis 2, Lieut. William 1)

Born in Derby, Conn., Feb. 11, 1677. Married Sept. 2, 1703, Anna Bowers; she died Jan. 11, 1744, and he died Apr. 11, 1751. He lived on his father's homestead in Derby. Was a man of positive character, was high sheriff of the town and stood high as a Royal Arch Mason.

They had :

- 1 Samuel (4), b. in Derby, July 23, 1704
- 2 Charles (4), " Feb. 14, 1707
- 3 Israel (4), " Oct. 8, 1709; m. Sarah Loveland; settled in Seymore
- 4 Francis (4), " date unknown
- 5 Mary (4), " Feb. 6, 1712
- 6 Hannah (4), " 1716; m. Abel Gunn
- 7 Nathaniel (4), " Oct. 28, 1717; died Nov. 13, 1780 or 1781

Samuel (4) married Martha Chapman and had six children, one of whom was a soldier in the French war and died at Crown Point.

The descendants of Francis French are still numerous in southern and western Connecticut.

John French (3), (Corp. John 2, Lieut. William 1)

Born in Billerica, May 15, 1679. Married Feb. 13, 1708, Ruth, daughter of Thomas Richardson.

They had :

- 1 Ruth (4), b. in Billerica, Oct. 22, 1708
- 2 John (4), " Oct. 24, 1710
- 3 Thomas (4), " March 14, 1713; died Dec. 2, 1792
- 4 Mary (4), " Sept. 23, 1715
- 5 Hannah (4), " Aug. 1, 1719
- 6 Joseph (4), " March 28, 1721
- 7 Benjamin (4), " Feb. 10, 1725
- 8 Jonathan (4), " Aug. 17, 1728

Sergeant William French (3) (Corp. John 2, Lieut. William 1)

Born in Billerica, Aug. 8, 1687. Was a Sergt. of militia. Married Mahitable, daughter of Thomas Patten. She died Jan. 15, 1743, he died Feb. 25, 1746.

They had :

- 1 William (4), b. in Billerica, Jan. 25, 1713
- 2 Elizabeth (4), " Apr. 3, 1716
- 3 Mahitable (4), " Aug. 29, 1718
- 4 Nathaniel (4), " Feb. 2, 1721
- 5 Jonathan (4), " May 28, 1724; died June 20, 1724
- 6 David (4), " May 28, 1724
- 7 Sarah (4), " Apr. 28, 1728; m. David Kittridge
- 8 John (4), " May 27, 1730; m. his cousin Mary French,  
daughter of John

1 William French (4) was a general of militia. Removed to Hollis, N. H., about 1766; thence to Bedford, N. H., where he died. Had Jonathan; William who removed to Bedford; Joseph, who m. Mary Youngman and settled in Hollis; Tabitha; Benjamin, who settled first in Dracut, then in Milford, N. H., where he died; Nehemiah, who m. Submit Leeman and settled in Hollis; Mehitable; Ephraim, who settled and died in Amherst, N. H.; Mehitable, 2d, who m. Job Bailey and died in Wilton, N. H.; Stephen, who m. Dolly Colburn of Dracut, removed to Bedford and was the progenitor of physicians, of whom there are a number now living in Manchester and Concord, N. H., and Betsey, who m. Daniel Bailey and died in Hollis.

Betsey (4) m. Ephraim Kidder, had nine children, lived in Tewksbury, died Nov. 30, 1755.

Nathaniel (4) m. Elizabeth Frost; removed to Vermont some time before the Revolution and lived in Dummerston and Brattleboro. Had eleven children, one of whom, William French (4), b. Mar 27, 1753, was the celebrated victim of the "Westminster Massacre." As this was the result of the first organized resistance to the royal authority in the colonies, William French has been claimed by some as the first martyr to the cause of American independence. The inscription upon his tombstone bears the following quaint inscription: "In memory of William French, son to Mr. Nathaniel French, who was shot at Westminster March ye 13th, 1775, by the hands of Cruel Ministerial tools of George ye 3d, in the Corthouse at a 11 a clock at night in the 22d year of his Age."

"Here William French his Body lies,  
For Murder his Blood for Vengeance Cries  
King George the third his tory Crew  
Tha with a Bawl his head Shot threw,  
For Liberty and his Countrys Good,  
he lost his Life his Dearest Blood."

Two other sons of Nathaniel French, Nathaniel and Joel, removed to Pennsylvania, where about 100 of their descendants are now living in the vicinity of Susquehanna.

Dea. WILLIAM FRENCH\* (Jacob 2, Lieut. William)

Born in Billerica, July 18, 1668; married May 22, 1695, Sarah, daughter of Jonathan Danforth, who was for many years the most eminent citizen of Billerica. He was a deacon of the church and prominent in the church and town affairs. He died Sept. 30, 1723, and his widow afterwards married Ebenezer Davis of Concord. He had:

1 Jacob (4) b. in Billerica, May 16, 1696; m. May 29, 1722, Elizabeth Davis, daughter of Joseph Davis, by whom he had eight children; she died Feb. 3, 1738, and he m. 2d,

May 19, 1741, Sarah Brown, daughter of George, by whom he had four children ; she died Aug. 16, 1765, and he m. 3d, Nov. 19, 1766, Mrs. Mary Curtis of Dracut, who died Sept. 19, 1769. He died March 7, 1775.

2 Joseph (4) b. in Billerica, Jan. 26, 1698 ; died Feb. 13, following.

3 Sarah (4), b. in Billerica, Dec. 29, 1698 ; m. Nathaniel Whittemore ; d. Aug. 15, 1734.

4 William (4), b. in Billerica, Jan. 25, 1701 ; m. Jan. 22, 1727, Joanna Hill, daughter of Samuel Hill, who died Jan. 17, 1769, and he m. 2d, Nov. 27, 1770, Mrs. Mahitable Mooar of Andover. He was a lieutenant and served in the war against the Indians. His name is on the muster roll of 1722. He had eleven children and died Apr. 9, 1776.

5 Jonathan (4), b. in Billerica, Jan. 25, 1703 ; died March 9, 1728.

6 Elizabeth (4) b. in Billerica, Apr. 3, 1705 ; m. Feb. 3, 1730, Josiah Crosby. She died Nov. 27, 1739, and he died in 1743. Their descendants include many prominent men, among whom are Hon. Nathan Crosby of Lowell, Alpheus Crosby, professor of Greek at Dartmouth College and author of a Greek grammar, and Drs. Asa Crosby of Gilmanton, Josiah Crosby and George A. Crosby of Manchester, Thos. R. Crosby, Dixie Crosby and his eminent son, Alpheus Benning Crosby of Hanover, and A. H. Crosby of Concord, whose names are household words in the thousands of homes throughout New England, while some of them are honored wherever medical science is cultivated. For a record of the descendants of Josiah Crosby see "A Crosby Family," by the Hon. Nathan Crosby of Lowell.

7 EBENEZER\* (4), b. in Billerica, Aug. 5, 1707 ; m. Aug. 27, 1729, Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Hill. She died March 26, 1786, and he Dec. 31, 1791. They had nine children.

8 Mary (4), b. in Billerica, Oct. 7, 1709 ; m. Jan. 16, 1730, Benj Manning.

9 Nicholas, b. in Billerica, Sept. 5, 1711. Removed to Hollis, N. H., about 1741. M. June 5, 1744, Priscilla Mooar, daughter of Timothy and Anne [Blanchard] Mooar of Andover, b. June 12, 1724. He was a member of the church in Hollis and held several minor town offices. His wife died Feb. 18, 1784, and he died Aug. 20, 1796. They had nine children, viz.: Timothy (5), Priscilla, Nicholas, Isaac, Lucy, Sarah, Jonathan, Sarah and David. Jonathan, the seventh child, born Aug. 21, 1759, m. 1788, Mary Keyes, daughter of Abner. Was a soldier in the Revolution ; removed to Deering, N. H., about 1797, and to Fair-

fax, [now Cambridge] Vt., about 1806. He died Sept. 18, 1835, and his wife died Oct. 6, 1853. They had eight children, viz.: Jonathan, Mary, James, David, John, Cynthia, Christopher and Mark. The youngest son, Mark, was born in Fairfax, Vt., Feb. 27, 1808, and died in Cambridge, Vt., Apr. 14, 1888. He married March 24, 1833, Mary Lyon, daughter of Abel of Swanton, who died Aug. 6, 1882. He was a deacon of the Congl. church in Cambridge and lived in Cambridge and Johnson. He had seven sons, viz.: One who died unnamed, James Foster, George Quincy, Jason Olds, Charles Finney, Henry Martyn and John Marshall. [The latter to whom I am indebted for the greater part of the French genealogy.]

10 Lydia, (4), born in Billerica, Apr. 29, 1714; died Aug. 2, 1731.

11 Esther, born in Billerica, May 16, 1716; died July 7, 1736.

12 Samuel, born in Billerica, May 21, 1718. Married Elizabeth Barron of Chelmsford and had two children. He served in the Revolution at Bennington and Saratoga.

Joseph French [3] [Samuel 2, Lieut. William 1]

Born in Dunstable, March 10, 1687. Married Elizabeth, daughter of John Cummings, Jr. Had children born in Dunstable.

1 Joseph [4], born July 28, 1713.

2 Sampson, [4], born July 28, 1717. He had at least one child, Sampson, Jr., by his first wife, who died about 1757, when he remarried, having Jonathan [5], David [5], Aaron [5] and Daniel. He died at Southwick, Mass., in 1785. A large number of his descendants, through Sampson, Jr., are now living in Broom County, N. Y.

3 Josiah [4], born Feb. 24, 1723.

4 Thomas [4], born June 29, 1724.

5 Benjamin [4], born July 6, 1726.

6 Samuel [4], born Aug. 10, 1730.

Family tradition speaks also of other sons, David and Ebenezer, the latter of whom, according to the tradition, kept a tavern in the valley of the Merrimack, and while trading with the Indians for furs, upon refusing them more rum when they had already drank freely, was murdered by them.

John French [3] [Samuel 2, Lieut. William 1]

Born in Dunstable May 6, 1691. Took a deed of a part of his father's farm in 1714. Had children born in Dunstable.

1 John [4], born March 1, 1719.

2 William [4], born Oct. 18, 1721.

3 Hannah [4].      4 Eleazer.      5 Elizabeth.

6 Ebenezer [4], who married 1st, Sarah Proctor of Acton, and 2d Susannah Hamblet of Nottingham, N. H., by whom he had Charlotte [5], b. Aug. 13, 1774, m. Isaac Woods; John [5], b. March 17, 1778, m. Sarah Estabrook and had Susan [6], who m. Moses Crockett and died 1847; Jefferson [6], who m. Elizabeth Spaulding and had seven sons and one daughter; Sarah [6], who m. David Barnard and died 1866; Rhoda [6], m. Jefferson Caldwell; Ebenezer [6], m. Sarah R. French of Boston; John H. [6], died 1831; Mary D. [6], 1817; Benjamin [6], m. Sarah E. Holms; William E. [6], m. Jane A. Fowler, and Samuel A. (6) m. Mary E. Parks.

7 Sarah.

#### EBENEZER FRENCH (7) \*

Born in Billerica, Aug. 5, 1707; m. Aug. 27, 1729, Elizabeth Hill; died Dec. 31, 1791. They had:

1 Elizabeth, born in Billerica,	1730
2 Sarah,	" 1732
3 Lucy,	" 1734
4 EBENEZER,*	" 1735
5 Esther,	" 1737
6 Jesse,	" 1739
7 Jacob,	" 1740
8 Abigail,	" 1743
9 Samuel,	" 1759

#### EBENEZER FRENCH (8) \*

Born May 2, 1735; m. June 3, 1760, Rebecca Kidder; date of death unknown to writer. They had.

1 Ebenezer, born in Billerica,	1760
2 Rebecca,	" 1762
3 Sarah,	" 1764
4 Abel,	" 1766
5 Lydia,	" 1767
6 Zadoc,	" 1769; settled in Bangor, Me.
7 Elizabeth,	" 1771
8 HEZEKIAH,*	" 1773
9 Francis,	" 1774
10 Josiah,	" 1777; settled in Albany, N. Y.

#### HEZEKIAH FRENCH (9)\*

Born in Billerica, Jan. 18, 1773; m. Eunice Rogers, 1797; settled at Lincolnville, and died May 14, 1843. They had:

1 Lydia (10), born in Lincolnville,	1800; m. Minot Crehore
2 EBEN (10),*	" 1801; m. Eliza Drinkwater
3 Eliza Jane,	" 1803; died young
4 Hezekiah,	" 1805; m. Abby Turner
5 Francis Henry,	" 1806
6 Abel,	" 1808; m. 1st, Jane Drinkwater
7 Philander,	" 1810
8 Beulah,	" 1813; m. Elden Hartshorn
9 Eunice,	" 1814; died young
10 Zadock,	" 1817; m. Deborah Moody

Eunice Rogers was a descendant of John Rogers of Marshfield, who came from London to Barbadoes in the "Falcon," April, 1635, and settled in Scituate about 1640-43.

Eliza Drinkwater, daughter of William, whose mother, wife of Micajah Drinkwater, was a Bradford, descendant of Gov. Bradford of Mass.

#### EBEN FRENCH (10)\*

Born in Lincolnville, July 16, 1801; married Eliza Drinkwater, Dec. 28, 1833, who was born May 14, 1811. She died June 13, 1880, and he died Sept. 2, 1874.

They had: *William - died in 'civil war'*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Benjamin F., born in Lincolnville, 1834; m. Minerva Taunt                            |  |
| 2 Minot E., " " 1837; m. Phoebe French   |  |
| 3 Eliza J., " " 1839; m. Robert W. Perry   |  |
| 4 Samuel W., " " 1841; m. Mary Gardener  |  |
| 5 Thomas D., <i>died 18 " 11</i> 1843; m. Isadora M. Bragg <i>D. 1913</i>              |  |
| 6 Francis G., <i>died 19 " 16</i> 1845; m. Sarah Gilkey                                |  |
| 7 John P., <i>died 19 " 17</i> 1847; m. Julia Monroe <i>d. m. 1873 - 1880 - 3 - 20</i> |  |
| 8 Beulah B., " " 1849; m. Jason L. Coombs  |  |
| 9 Mary W., " " 1852; died young  |  |
| 10 Lydia E., " " 1853; m. Milard Frohock <i>d. m. m. m. m. m.</i>                      |  |
| 11 Fred E., <i>died 19 " 17</i> 1856; m. Ida L. Monroe                                 |  |

Thomas D. French, son of Eben and Eliza (Drinkwater) French, born at Lincolnville, Maine, June 26, 1843; m. Dec. 31, 1867, Isadora M. Bragg, daughter of George M. and Sarah (Ratcliff) Bragg, born June 1, 1847.

Children: Allura, b. Oct. 30, 1868; m. July 17, 1890, Wallace F. Keller, who d. July 24, 1902; they had Jenness F., b. March 27, 1893; Henry P., b. Apr. 9, 1894; Dorothy and Marjorie, b. Sept. 16, 1896. Myrtle L., b. Nov. 2, 1871; m. Oct. 2, 1901, Albert H. Bickmore. Thomas J., b. Nov. 12, 1874; m. Leila M. Bucklin, Oct. 15, 1903. Ethel H., b. July 5, 1885. *m. - names P. Burgess 1897. Had 1 child.*

*Bradford French born 1910:*

*Richard French " 1912*





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